act so hostile as that of firing at the *Star of the West,* was plainly beyond the instructions which he had received from Major Buell, whicli limited Anderson's military operations to those required for the defence of his command. To avoid embarrassment, therefore, lie informed Pickens[1] that he intended sending an officer to Washington to obtain further instructions. The Governor willingly assented; and on the same evening Lieutenant Talbot left for Washington.

Governor Pickens may have thought that he could perceive in this step of Major Anderson signs of weakening. At any rate, on the llth of January, lie sent a deputation to him under a flag of truce, "to present considerations of the gravest public character . . . to induce the delivery of Fort Sumter to the constituted authorities of the State of South Carolina, with a pledge on its part to account for" the "public property under" his (Anderson's) " charge." The two gentlemen who acted as ambassadors, Judge Magrath and General Jamison, seem to have exerted all their eloquence, but the Major felt that his duty as a military man was perfectly clear, as indeed it was, and he returned an unqualified negative to their request At the same time,

feeling, perhaps, that the events of the last two days had opened a new chapter in the history of the question, he proposed [a] that *ie* should send another officer, to accompany an envoy to be named by tin-* Governor, to proceed to Washington and refer this demand for the surrender of the fort to the IVesi-

[1] Crawford, j>. 190. * //>., j>. 194-